

Message Text

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ORIGIN ITF-05

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DRAFTED BY IATF:PHARE:SBA

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S/S-O:P

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P 122305Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 103161; (B) PARIS 11850; (C) STATE 109382

1. WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON FRENCH APPROACH TO REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA.

2. AS INDICATED IN REFERENCE (C), WE ARE SIMPLY NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE HOW MANY REFUGEES IN US SYSTEM ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY TO FRANCE. MOREOVER, IT IS BEYOND OUR CAPABILITY TO WORK THIS PROBLEM THROUGH FRENCH CONSULATES GIVEN THE NUMBERS OF PERSONS WHO ARE GOING THROUGH OUT SYSTEM AND THE PROBLEMS OF IDENTIFICATION; LOCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS WHICH RESULT.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF UNHCR, ICEM AND ICRC, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA ARE ON GUAM WORKING ON THE PROBLEM OF THOSE WHO
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WISH TO GO TO THIRD COUNTRIES. IN OUR VIEW, THE ONLY WAY

TO DEAL WITH FRENCH CASE IS FOR THEM TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO GUAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO SHOULD GO TO FRANCE. WE SEE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. MOREOVER, IF THE FRENCH WOULD ASSIGN A REPRESENTATIVE TO PENDLETON ON A PERMANENT BASIS, THIS

WOULD ALSO HELP ALLEVIATE THE SITUATION. BUT THE FIRST PRIORITY IS GUAM. FRENCH MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SENDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM TAHITI OR NOUMEA.

4. WITH RESPECT TO FUNDING, WE WERE SOMEWHAT DISMAYED (IF NOT SURPRISED) TO LEARN OF FRENCH POSITION ON FUNDING, ESPECIALLY FOR CLOSE RELATIVES OF FRENCH CITIZENS OR FOR THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY WORKED FOR FRENCH GOVERNMENT. FOR THE DESTITUTE WHO RECEIVE PERMISSION TO ENTER FRANCE, HOWEVER, WE WILL WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH ICEM FOR ONWARD TRAVEL. INGERSOLL

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